

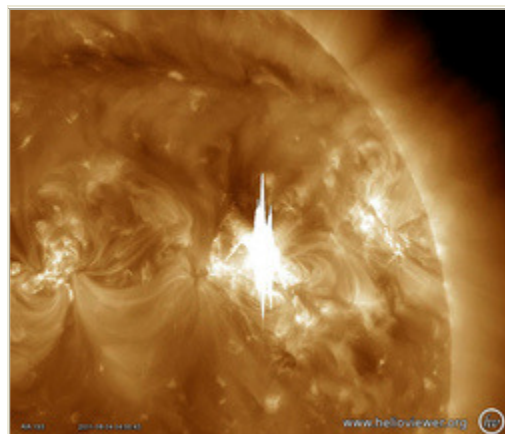
SPARK GAP

Vol. 28, Issue 8, August 2011 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for twenty-seven Years*

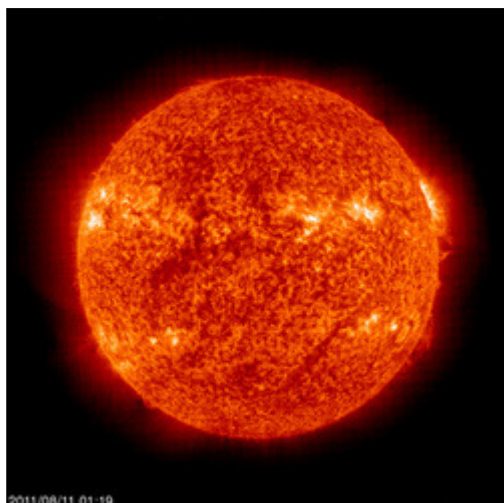
Solar Explosions Could Impact Earth

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is keeping an eye on a set of solar storms and explosions that could disrupt satellite, telecommunications and electric equipment here on Earth in the next few days. While activity had reportedly returned to somewhat normal levels when solar winds calmed the morning of Monday, August 8, another explosion at 0805 UTC on Tuesday, August 9 was three times larger than the February 15 flare, which, until now, was the most significant flare of Solar Cycle 24.

Given the location of the activity, any coronal mass ejection (CMEs) from the flare would likely be directed away from Earth. As such, the Space Weather Prediction Center is not forecasting "significant Geomagnetic Storm activity," and the most recent storms should not affect radio amateurs. But when a CME *does* hit the Earth's atmosphere -- approximately 72 hours after exploding on the Sun -- the low bands will be depressed and signals will be weaker the lower the frequency. The absorption rate will be most severe on 160 meters, less on 80 and somewhat better on 40 meters. The maximum usable frequency (MUF) -- the highest frequency by which a radio wave can propagate between given terminals by ionosphere propagation alone, independent of power -- will be lower and aurora propagation on the VHF bands is quite possible.



On August 4, an M9.3 flare (fairly strong-sized) along with a coronal mass ejection (CME) blasted out from the Sun from sunspot group 1261 and headed in the general direction of Earth. The still shows the characteristic spreading of light caused by the brightness of the flare as observed in extreme ultraviolet light. But, the CME can be seen distinctly as a darker cloud lifting off and rising up and out into space, something we usually do not get to see so clearly. It is predicted that the particle cloud will impact Earth in a few days, when it will likely generate bright auroras as far south as Pennsylvania and could possibly upset electronic equipment, especially in space. The power of the storm is ranked as K-7 on a 1-9 scale. [Photo and description courtesy of NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory]



From the President,

Here it is mid August already, and it seems impossible that summer is already winding down. From a radio perspective the club had several summertime activities, and there were the usual fine local hamfests, that I hope many of you enjoyed attending. As a club we did our usual amount of operating and community activities. There was the annual White River Township Fire Department Strawberry Festival where we provided a "field day" type operation, and then the actual ARRL Field Day, which we participated in from the E.O.C. for the first time. There was also the Indiana QSO Party in which several club members operate every year. We still have our club picnic, and the annual Greenwood Band Invitational experience, as well as the Indianapolis radio Club's Hilltop event that is scheduled for September. This summer has been so scorching hot that it has been too warm to do many outdoor activities, but that should be improving soon. Those of you who have antenna projects in the works, now is the time to start getting those wrapped up while the weather is more moderate and cooperative. Ham lore insists that antennas installed in inclement weather work best, but I prefer to take my chances on good weather days.

--Steve K9DY

Where is Amateur Radio Today?

I have been into this hobby over 30+ years and to this day still love it and am as enthusiastic as ever...

I simply love being able to broadcast a radio signal and seeing where it winds up? Through my years I have collected a fine collage of rigs and gear... I just love all of the different aspects of this time honored hobby, Way too many to list but I think you know what I am talking about. I recently was at a social event and when asked about my interest, I immediately responded that I was a HAM RADIO operator! Well, not surprising, I was looked at with puzzling faces! Some ask what that was and other chuckled and said OH CB? OH MY GOD how mortified and angry was I.. Not so much at them but that people have NO CLUE as to the wonders of this hobby, worse, that it even exist! So quick thinking I asked do any of you use a computer? -- And if so have you ever Facebooked or twittered? Do you use Cell Phones? I then explained that all of these devices and means of communication are a direct derivative of Amateur Radio.

I gave a little explanation and moved on...

This experience gave me an insight as to the future of our hobby... I hope to God I am wrong but I see this hobby becoming lost and non-existent? It saddens me that our kids of today show no interest in the arts and sciences and the magical world of electronics. I truly wonder where is our hobby today? As I sit here in my shack writing this article and my transceiver on I can't help but think what this world would have been without the Ham's and tinkerers of those days back when... I also am angry that schools do not put importance of art and science as I remember it back in my day... We had a Ham radio school station in my High School and I was like a magnet to steel in that class... Well, anyway I am getting off base here; I just would like to know how we can introduce Amateur Radio as not something old and antiquated but cutting edge and hip? Having been a boat anchor operator for most of my Ham life I just came into the modern era

and purchased a Yaesu FT-950... WOW what a fantastic rig and the features help make it a whole new experience in my good 'ol hobby.

Amateur Radio with all the good it provides not only in the art of radio but the education and experiences, it is to me the most rewarding hobby anyone can have. Experimenting with antenna designs and QRP, collecting exotic QSL cards whatever? Amateur Radio needs to be more out in the open and in the public eye Even if it means using computers to do it!

Just a final note, I am a VE and Elmer to anyone who will ask... If you can just get one person to become interested in this hobby I am sure we can keep the hobby alive and well...

So, be proud and know that you are a part of a great fraternity of communicators, ambassadors to the world through the wonders of wireless!

73 My friends... DE: KB2DHG Lou Giovannetti

..... eHAM.net



GREENWOOD HS MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

September is quickly approaching and one of our annual events that MARC participates in is the Greenwood High School Marching Band Invitational. All available radio amateurs are needed to help with safety, parking cars and busses. The bands as well as the people attending this event appreciate the care we give to the event.

What you will need is your favorite HT and an extra charged battery pack, a folding chair, some bottled water, your reflective vest and a flashlight with a wand attached. The event is taking place in the evening so it is important that we have enough amateur radio volunteers to have good coverage in the areas of the football field and the surrounding grounds of the Greenwood High School.

There will be more information about this event such as the starting time. As usual there will be food available to all that help with this event. Please contact Bob N9SIU if you can help with this event by email: [n9siu at yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com).

HOOSIERS CAN SHARE 9/11 OBSERVATIONS, HONOR PUBLIC SAFETY PROFESSIONALS ON IDHS FACEBOOK WALL

INDIANAPOLIS - As the 10th anniversary of September 11, 2001 approaches, the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) is providing a way for Hoosiers to honor public safety professionals, especially those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

"The events of 9/11 affected all Americans, and it changed the way Americans see themselves and fellow citizens," said Joe Wainscott, IDHS Executive Director. "We hope this memorial wall provides a venue for remembering this life-changing event and the individuals who daily dedicate their lives to keeping America safe."

Participation is open to all residents of Indiana. Submissions can be audio or video clips, pictures (including photos of artwork), or text. Entries along the following lines are welcome:

- Where you were and what you were doing on 9/11
- How 9/11 changed your life
- How 9/11 changed the U.S. or the world
- Honor public safety professionals, including fire, police, emergency medical and emergency management

For more information, visit the IDHS website at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/> or the IDHS Facebook Page. Entries can be submitted through the IDHS Facebook page or at pio@dhs.in.gov.

It would be good to include any amateur radio stories too such as working any national nets, MARS, or your local community.

..... Bob N9SIU

A DAY WE WILL ALL REMEMBER



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

2011 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2011

20 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

SEPTEMBER 2011

17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN (ANNUAL PICNIC, location TBA)

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

SEPTEMBER 2011

24 GREENWOOD HS MARCHING BAND INVITATIONAL (club event)

Greenwood HS Smith Valley Rd (west of US31) evening event this year and all are needed to assist with parking cars and public safety. This can count as an ARES Exercise for 2011.

OCTOBER 2011

15 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

NOVEMBER 2011

19 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

DECEMBER 2011

17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN

Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

2011 Indiana Hamfests

August 27	Owen-Monroe Hamfest , Owen County Fairgrounds, Spencer, IN , http://www.inarrrl.org/hamfest.html
August 27	Ripley Co. Amateur Radio Club Hamfest , Ripley County 4-H Fairgrounds, Osgood, IN
Oct. 2	Hoosier Hills Hamfest , Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, 11261 US Hwy 50 West., Bedford , http://www.w9qyq.org/
Oct. 8	LCARC Hamfest , Lake County Fairgrounds, 889 S. Court Street, Crown Point, Indiana, http://www.lakenetnwi.net/member/lcarc/
Nov. 19-20	Indiana State Convention, Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo , Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com



MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

WA9RDF
Repeater
146.835/
146.235 MHz
151.4 Hz PL Tone

Club Officers:
President: Steve Carmean - K9DY
Vice President: Dave Daily – KB9LOT
Secretary: Robert Jones – KC9NJM
Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Repeater Trustee: Jay Chrismon – AA9YP

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

*P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131*

Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd of the month

